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The SPECTATOR.

Excuerint ſylveſtrem animum, cultuque frequenti
In quaſcunque voces artes, haud tarda ſequentur. Virg.

MONDAY, *October* 11. 1714.

HAving peruſed the following Letter, and finding it to run upon the Subject of Love, I refer'd it to the Learned *Caſuiſt*, whom I have retained in my Service for Speculations of that Kind. He returned it to me the next Morning with his Report annexed to it, with both of which I ſhall here preſent my Reader.

Mr. SPECTA[illegible]

'FINDING [illegible]ave Entertained an uſe-
'ful Perſo[illegible]lice in quality of *Love-Caſuiſt*, I apply [illegible]ou, under a very great Difficulty, that h[illegible]me Months Perplexed me. I have a Co[illegible]umble Servants, one of which I have no A[illegible]n to; the other I think of very kindly. The Firſt hath the Reputation of a Man of good Senſe, and is one of thoſe People that your Sex are apt to Value. My Spark is reckoned a Coxcomb among the Men, but is a Favourite of the Ladies. If I marry the Man of Worth, as they call him, I ſhall oblige my Parents and improve my Fortune; but with my dear Beau I promiſe my ſelf Happineſs, altho' not a Jointure. Now I would ask you, whether I ſhould conſent to lead my Life with a Man that I have only no Objection to, or with him againſt whom all Objections to me appear frivolous. I am determined to follow the *Caſuiſts* Advice, and I dare ſay he will not put me upon ſo ſerious a thing as Matrimony contrary to my Inclination.

I am, *&c.*

Fanny [illegible].

P. S. 'I forgot to tell you, that the pretty Gentleman is the moſt complaiſant Creature in the World, and is always of my Mind; but the other 'forſooth, fancies he hath as much Wit as my ſelf, 'ſlights my Lap-dog, and hath the Inſolence to 'contradict me when he thinks I am not in the Right. 'About half an Hour ago, he maintained to my 'Face, that a Patch always implies a Pimple.

As I look upon it to be my Duty rather to ſide with the Parents than the Daughter, I ſhall propoſe ſome Conſiderations to my gentle Queriſt, which may incline her to comply with thoſe, under whoſe Direction ſhe is: And, at the ſame time, convince her that it is not impoſſible but ſhe may, in time, have a true Affection for him who is, at preſent, indifferent to her: Or, to uſe the old Family Maxim, that *If ſhe marries firſt, Love will come after.*

The only Objection, that ſhe ſeems to inſinuate againſt the Gentleman propoſed to her, is his want of Complaiſance, which, I perceive, ſhe is very willing to return. Now, I can diſcover from this very Circumſtance, that ſhe and her Lover, whatever they may think of it, are very good Friends in their Hearts. It is difficult to determine, whether Love delights more in giving Pleaſure or Pain. Let Miſs *Fickle* ask her own Heart, if ſhe doth not take a ſecret Pride in making this Man of good Senſe look very ſilly. Hath ſhe ever been better pleaſed, than when her Behaviour hath made her Lover ready to hang himſelf? Or doth ſhe ever rejoice more, than when ſhe thinks ſhe hath driven him to the very Brink of a purling Stream? Let her conſider, at the ſame time, that it is not impoſſible but her Lover may have diſcovered her Tricks, and hath a mind to give her as good as ſhe brings. I remember a handſome young Baggage that treated a hopeful *Greek* of my Acquaintance, juſt come from *Oxford*, as if he had been a *Barbarian*. The firſt Week, after ſhe had fixed him, ſhe took a Pinch of Snuff out of his Rival's Box, and apparently touched the Enemy's little Finger. She became

became a profeſt Enemy to the Arts and Sciences, and ſcarce ever wrote a Letter to him without willfully miſ-ſpelling his Name. The young Scholar, to be even with her, railed at *Coquettes* as ſoon as he had got the Word; and did not want Parts to turn into Ridicule her Men of Wit and Pleaſure of the Town. After having irritated one another, for the ſpace of five Months, ſhe made an Aſſignation with him fourſcore Miles from *London*. But as he was very well acquainted with her Pranks, he took a Journey the quite contrary Way. Accordingly they met, quarrel'd, and in a few Days were Married. Their former Hoſtilities are now the Subject of their Mirth, being content at preſent with that part of Love only which beſtows Pleaſure.

Women, who have been married ſome time, not having it in their Heads to draw after them a numerous Train of Followers, find their Satisfaction in the Poſſeſſion of one Man's Heart. I know very well, that Ladies in their Bloom deſire to be excuſed in this Particular. But when Time hath worn out their natural Vanity and taught them Diſcretion, their Fondneſs ſettles on its proper Object. And it is probably for this Reaſon, that among Husbands, you will find more that are fond of Women beyond their Prime, than of thoſe who are actually in the Inſolence of Beauty. My Reader will apply the ſame Obſervation to the other Sex.

I need not inſiſt upon the Neceſſity of their purſuing one common Intereſt, and their united Care for their Children; but ſhall only obſerve, by the Way, that married Perſons are both more warm in their Love, and more hearty in their Hatred, than any others whatſoever. Mutual Favours and Obligations, which may be ſuppoſed to be greater here than in any other State, naturally beget an intenſe Affection in generous Minds. As, on the contrary, Perſons who have beſtowed ſuch Favours, have a particular Bitterneſs in their Reſentments, when they think themſelves ill treated by thoſe of whom they have deſerved ſo much.

Beſides, Miſs *Fickle* may conſider, that as there are often many Faults concealed before Marriage, ſo there are ſometimes many Virtues unobſerved.

To this we may add the great Efficacy of Cuſtom, and conſtant Converſation, to produce a mutual Friendſhip and Benevolence in two Perſons. It is a nice Reflection, which I have heard a Friend of mine make, that you may be ſure a Woman loves a Man, when ſhe uſes his Expreſſions, tells his Stories, or imitates his Manner. This gives a ſecret Delight; for Imitation is a kind of artleſs Flattery, and mightily favours the powerful Principle of Self-love. It is certain, that married Perſons, who are poſſeſt with a mutual Eſteem, not only catch the Air and way of Talk from one another, but fall into the ſame Traces of thinking and liking. Nay, ſome have carried the Remark ſo far as to aſſert, that the Features of Man and Wife grow, in time, to reſemble one another. Let my fair Correſpondent then conſider, that the Gentleman recommended will have a good deal of her own Face in two or three Years; which ſhe muſt not expect from the Beau, who is too full of his dear ſelf to copy after another. And I dare appeal to to her own Judgment, if that Perſon will not be the handſomeſt, that is the moſt like her ſelf.

We have a remarkable Inſtance to our preſent Purpoſe in the Hiſtory of King *Edgar*, which I ſhall here relate, and leave it with my fair Correſpondent to be applied to her ſelf.

This great Monarch, who is ſo famous in *Britiſh* Story, fell in Love, as he made his Progreſs through his Kingdom, with a certain Duke's Daughter who lived near *Wincheſter*, and was the moſt celebrated Beauty of the Age. His Importunities and the Violence of his Paſſion were ſo great, that the Mother of the young Lady promiſed him to bring her Daughter to his Bed the next Night, tho' in her Heart ſhe abhor'd ſo infamous an Office. It was no ſooner dark than ſhe conveyed into his Room a young Maid of no diſagreeable Figure, who was one of her Attendants, and did not want Addreſs to improve the Opportunity for the Advancement of her Fortune. She made ſo good Uſe of her Time, that when ſhe offered to riſe a little before Day, the King could by no means think of parting with her. So that finding her ſelf under a Neceſſity of diſcovering who ſhe was, ſhe did it in ſo handſome a Manner, that his Majeſty was exceeding gracious to her, and took her ever after under his Protection, inſomuch that our Chronicles tell us he carried her with him, made her his firſt Miniſter of State, and continued true to her alone till his Marriage with the beautiful *Elfrida*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Remedium Litholyticon Paracelſi, or the Stone ſolving Remedy of Paracelſus revived, and prepared by Mr. Awbery Aporhecary in Reading, Berks, which will certainly cure any Perſon afflicted with the Stone, or Gravel, tho never ſo big, by diſſolving it into ſuch minute ſoft Parts, as the Urine, in its natural Courſe, will bring continually away without Pain, and this not only in the Kidneys, but alſo when ſtopt in the Ureters or Neck of the Bladder, even to a total Suppreſſion of Urine. Thoſe who have been cut for the Stone, may by theſe Drops prevent freſh Coagulations. It is to be had of him, and at the Sign of the Fox over-againſt Somerſet Houſe in the Strand at 5 s. the Bottle with Directions. The Incredulous, at the above-mentioned Places, will be recommended to undoubted Inſtances of the Truth of theſe Aſſertions.

George Etherington, Watch-Maker, is remov'd from the Dial in Fleet ſtreet, to the Dial over-againſt the new Church in the Strand, London: Where all Sorts of Repeating Jewel-Watches (and others) are made and ſold.

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